

Plants for Constructed Wetlands and Sedge Bogs

Information sourced from Bluedale Nursery
and PlantNet



Baumea articulata

Landscape value

Baumea articulata, Jointed Twig Rush, a tall rhizomatous macrophyte that grows in standing fresh water in dams, deep swamps, lakes, creeks and drainage swales. It forms large dense swards of foliage that provide habitat for frogs and other animals and nesting material for water birds. Baumea has excellent nutrient soaking properties and is a favourite of designers in constructed wetlands.

Height

1.5 metres to 2.5 metres

Width

It forms large dense swards of foliage

Habit

Deep green upright cylindrical evergreen reed like foliage

Flowers and Fruit

It flowers over Summer with large, rusty brown flowers and seed heads

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 50% shade, from boggy ground to 1 metre deep fresh water. It occurs in all coastal areas and in some inland climates.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

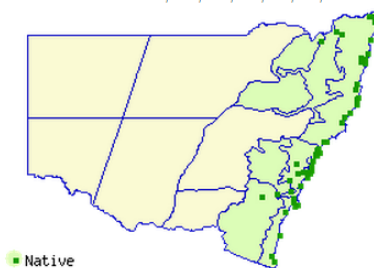
Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows in standing water of lagoons, deeper swamps, and streams; mostly coastal, but inland to Boonoo Boonoo Falls and Torrington district.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. WA. SA.



Baumea rubiginosa

Landscape value

Baumea rubiginosa is a rhizomatous macrophyte that forms dense swards of foliage. It grows in ephemeral swamps and along the margins of fresh water swamps in water 0-500mm deep. It is often found in low nutrient sandy, peaty soils. It tends to grow shorter in dry ephemeral swamps and taller when in permanent water. Ideal for constructed wetlands as a transition plant between the high and low water.



Height

700mm to 1 metre

Habit

Upright green foliage, spreading rhizomatous habit forming large dense swards

Flowers and Fruit

Brown to reddish-brown clusters of spikelets with 2 or 3 seed heads, fringed with hairs

Aspect

Full sun to 70% shade. Occurs mainly on the coast in ephemeral swamps. Forming swards covering large areas.

Soil Type

Wet and dry sandy loam, clay loams and peaty soils.

Maintenance

Trim back by half every 2 to 3 years, if need be.

Available Sizes

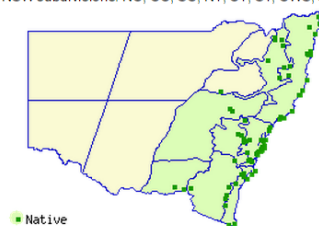
Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in swamps and other damp areas, on sandy soil; widespread on the coast and eastern edge of tablelands, extending inland to near Mudgee and Holbrook.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, CWS, SWS

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. WA. SA. N.T.



Bolboschoenus fluviatilis

Landscape value

Bolboschoenus fluviatilis, a rhizomatous perennial rush that grows in shallow fresh to brackish water along rivers, creeks, coastal swamps and drainage swales. It is particularly good at stabilizing banks and protecting them from wave erosion. It also provides habitat for birds and other animals.



Height

1 metre to 1.8 metres tall and spreads by rhizomes and bulbs

Width

Forming large clumps

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 50% shade, from boggy ground to 250mm deep water. Its range extends from the coast to inland areas. *Bolboschoenus* seasonally dies back especially in colder inland climates.

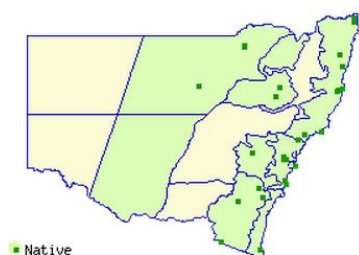


Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Scattered, in open swamps; west to Macquarie Marshes.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT, ST, NWS, NWP, SWP
Other Australian states: Qld Vic. S.A.

Eleocharis acuta

Landscape value

Eleocharis acuta, Small Spike Rush, is rhizomatous macrophyte that forms dense swards to colonize shallow fresh water along the edges of dams, lagoons, drainage swales and boggy low lying areas. Occurs mainly in stationary to very slow moving water. Its range extends from the coast to all inland areas. A great colonizer and habitat for birds, frogs and other animals.

Height

250mm to 400mm

Width

Spreads to form large clumps

Habit

Eleocharis acuta has fine green, cylindrical, upright foliage

Flowers and Fruit

Flower and seed head at the very tip of its stem

Aspect

Eleocharis acuta grows in full sun to part shade in boggy soils and in water 0—500mm deep, along the edges of dams, lagoons, drainage swales and boggy low lying areas.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

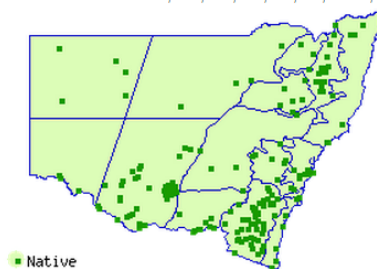
Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Widespread in NSW. In all States (not Northern Territory), New Zealand, New Guinea, Norfolk Island.

Grows in moist situations.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP



Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. WA. SA.

Eleocharis sphacelata

Landscape value

Eleocharis sphacelata, Tall Spike Rush, a rhizomatous macrophyte that grows in or near still fresh water in dams, swamps, lakes, creeks and drainage swales. It forms large swards of foliage that provide habitat and nesting material for water birds. Eleocharis will dominate areas it colonizes.



Height

1 metre to 1.5 metres

Width

It forms large dense swards of foliage

Habit

Large green cylindrical upright reeds that resemble spikes



Flowers and Fruit

The flower and seed head is on the tip of each reed. Habitat Zone B, C and D.

Aspect

Grows in full sun and up to 50% shade. In the shade it tends to be sparse and open. Eleocharis will grow from 500mm out into 2 metre deep water. It is one of the few macrophytes that grow in deep water. It is a wide spread species occurring in all areas from the coast to inland.



Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

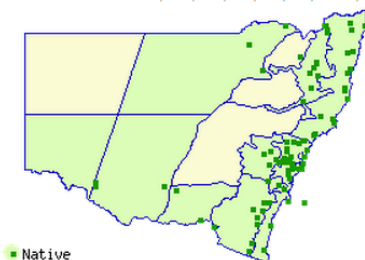
Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²

Distribution and occurrence: Widespread on coast and tablelands, inland to Narrabri and Balranald. All other States; also New Guinea, New Zealand.

Grows in more or less still fresh water to at least 5 m deep.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, SWS, NWP, SWP, SFWP

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. WA. SA. N.T.



Lepironia articulata - Grey Sedge

Landscape value

Lepironia articulata, a tall tightly rhizomatous macrophyte that forms large dense swards of foliage. It grows in ephemeral swamps and the margins of fresh water swamps. It often occurs in acid sulphate soils. Lepironia is highly ornamental and has huge potential as a designer water feature plant.

Height

1.5 metres to 3 metres

Habit

Tall slender glaucous foliage forms large dense swards

Flowers and Fruit

Its flower and seed head is conical and is carried near the top of the reed stem

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 50% shade in ephemeral swamps and the margins of fresh water swamps in water 0—500mm deep. Lepironia is native to the Central Coast, Mid & North Coast and coastal Queensland. While it is naturally restricted to the coast it will grow in inland climates if protected from heavy frost.

Soil Type

Often occurs in acid sulphate soils.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²

Available to Buy Online



Distribution and occurrence: NC, CC; north from Thirlmere Lakes; also in Qld, NTerr, Malesia, New Caledonia, Madagascar.

Grows in open swamps.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC



■ Native

Other Australian states: Qld N.T.

Philydrum lanuginosum

Landscape value

Philydrum lanuginosum, Woolly Frogs Mouth, named after the resemblance of its flower to that of an open frog's mouth. Philydrum is an emergent aquatic perennial that occurs along the margins of fresh water creeks, rivers, dams, lagoons and boggy areas. It is wide spread on the coast and northern inland areas. As a shorter lived perennial it will naturally transition in and out of the environment as it dies and self seeds.

Height

Foliage 500mm to 700mm

Width

500mm to 600mm

Habit

Clumping plant with lime green soft spongy, upright foliage that develops reddish tones with age and in cooler temperatures.

Flowers and Fruit

Attractive yellow flowers in spring and summer reaching 1.5m.

Aspect

Full sun to 50% shade. Coast and inland climates.

Available Sizes

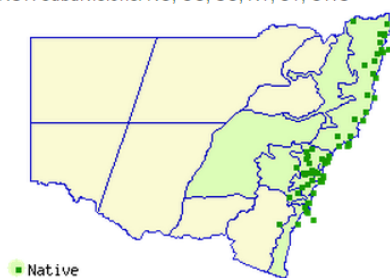
Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows in swamps, along margins of streams and dams; widespread.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, CWS



Other Australian states: Qld Vic. W.A. N.T.

Phragmites australis

Landscape value

Phragmites australis, Common Reed, is a warm season wetland grass that commonly grows along the margins of saline and brackish water lagoons, lakes, rivers and estuaries.

Phragmites is a fast growing grass that forms extensive dense thickets. It is a great nutrient soaker and has been used in constructed wetlands and reed beds for that very purpose.

Height

1 metre to 3 metres

Width

It forms large dense swards of foliage

Habit

Fast growing cane like grass with green leaves and is deciduous over winter.

Flowers and Fruit

Flowers in Autumn and seeds in winter with large fluffy white seed heads.

Aspect

Full sun to 30% shade. Grown on river banks and out into 1 metre plus water. It occurs all along the coast and in all inland areas.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

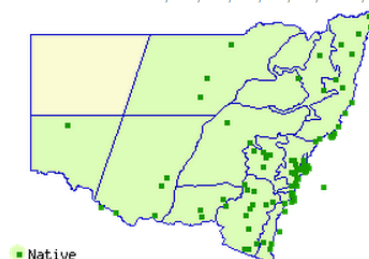
Planting Rates

Mass planting; Viro-tubes 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows in wet places especially at the edge of ponds and streams, and in tidal waters; widespread.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, SFWP, LHI

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. S.A. W.A. N.T.



Native

Schoenoplectus mucronatus

Landscape value

Schoenoplectus mucronatus grows in stationary and slow running fresh water along creeks, rivers, dams and lagoons. It is a common species occurring from the coast and northern inland areas. It makes a great specimen plant and has a lot of ornamental appeal.



Height

1 metre

Width

500mm to 600mm

Habit

A clump forming macrophyte with lime/green triangular foliage.



Flowers and Fruit

It flowers over Summer with a cluster of seed heads near the top of the rush.

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 70% shade. In shade it tends to grow taller and more open. Grows in boggy ground to 500mm deep stationary and slow running fresh water.



Available Sizes

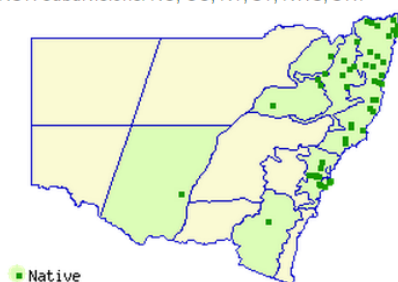
Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in streams and other damp situations; scattered, north from Sydney region and west to the eastern edge of NWS and also near Griffith.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, NT, ST, NWS, SWP

Other Australian states: Qld W.A. N.T.



Schoenoplectus validus

Landscape value

Schoenoplectus validus, River Club Rush, a tall rhizomatous macrophyte that grows in fresh water in dams, swamps, lakes, creeks and on the edge of brackish water in coastal rivers and lagoons, where it spreads to colonize the waters edge. Schoenoplectus provides habitat for native water birds, frogs, insects and young fish.

Height

1.5 metres to 2 metres

Habit

Upright green/bluish reed like foliage

Flowers and Fruit

It flowers in summer with a tassel like seed head close to the top of the reed.

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 50% shade, from boggy ground to 1 metre deep water. It occurs in all areas from the coast to inland. In inland climates it will die back a little over winter and re-shoot from the rhizome in spring.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

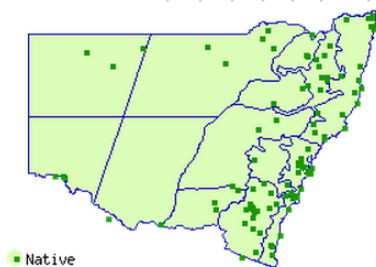
Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows along creeks, lakes and open swamps (in fresh and brackish water); widespread but scattered. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. WA. SA.



Carex appressa

Landscape value

Carex appressa is a hardy sedge for wet and dry zones. It is an ideal plant for Constructed Wetlands, Rain Gardens and general revegetation of riparian zones along creeks and rivers. Carex appressa also has ornamental landscape applications such as dry river bed gardens, and damp and poorly draining areas of the garden.

Height

900mm to 1 metre

Width

1 metre

Habit

Clumping plant with upright to arching fine green, raspy foliage

Flowers and Fruit

Spring with rusty/brown flowers and seed heads on stems rising from the basal clump. Carex is a tussock with lime green upright to spreading foliage. Its foliage may scratch, so best kept away from pedestrian traffic. Great foliage contrast with grasses.

Aspect

Full sun to 50% shade. Protected coastal aspects are best. Inland it can handle cold & medium frost to -10°C .

Soil Type

Wet and dry sandy loam, clay loams.

Maintenance

Trim back by half every 2 to 3 years, Fertilize with slow release fertilizer after trimming.

Mulch Type

Any well composted mulch type.

Available to Buy Online

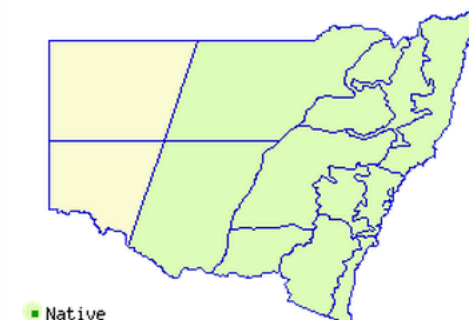


Distribution and occurrence: All regions except NFWP and SFWP; all States except N.T.; N.G., N.Z., N.Cal.

Widespread in damp places.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.



Carex fascicularis

Landscape value

Carex fascicularis, a sedge that grows on the coastal and inland areas on the edge of fresh and brackish water - to 100mm deep. Carex fascicularis is generally softer to touch than its cousin Carex appressa. The plant overall has an attractive ornamental appeal that would be suitable for native and ornamental ponds and water features.



Height

700mm—1 metre

Width

700mm—1 metre

Habit

Lime green arching to weeping foliage that is generally softer to touch.



Flowers and Fruit

Flowers and seed heads are a pendulous foxtail like tassel

Aspect

Carex fascicularis grows in full sun to 50% shade. Occurs in coastal and inland climates. Foliage will die off in winter under frost and re-shoot again in Spring.



Soil Type

Overall, the plant has an attractive ornamental appeal that would be suitable for native and ornamental ponds and water features.

Maintenance

Trim foliage at the end of Winter to remove old foliage and spent flowers.

Available Sizes

Viro-cells and Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Available as Viro-cells and Viro-tubes.

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in swampy areas; widespread on coast and tableland:
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS
Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.



Ficinia nodosa (syn. Isolepis nodosa)

Landscape value

Ficinia nodosa, formerly known as *Isolepis nodosa*, is an upright to gently weeping sedge with deep green cylindrical foliage that holds its colour all year round on the coast. It is often found growing on the edges of coastal lagoons and in the sand dunes of beaches where it can handle front line exposure to salt laden winds. Makes a great landscape plant for ornamental gardens.

Available to Buy Online

Height

700mm to 800mm

Width

600mm to 700mm

Habit

Upright to gently weeping deep green cylindrical foliage.

Flowers and Fruit

Spring & Summer, with a semi-spherical brownish/cream flower at the top of the stems.

Aspect

Full sun to 70% shade. *Ficinia* is ideal for full coastal exposure and can grow in sand dunes. It also grows naturally on the edges of coastal lagoons and can be inundated during flooding. Inland it can handle cold and light frost to -5°C .

Soil Type

Wide range; dry & wet sand, loams and clay loam.

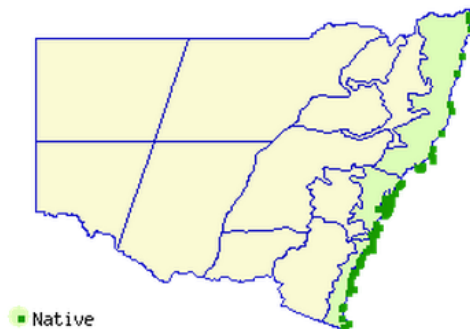


Distribution and occurrence: Coastal. Also the coasts of other southern States and Africa, New Zealand.

Widespread on coastal sand, beside sea and lakes.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, LHI

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.



Juncus usitatus

Landscape value

Juncus usitatus is an upright sedge with a tussock habit that naturally grows along fresh water creeks, dams and seepages. *Juncus* makes a great landscape sedge. It has green cylindrical foliage, with tones of copper in winter making it a good accent plant.

Height

800mm to 1 metre

Width

300mm to 500mm

Habit

Upright tussock with green to rustic reddish brown foliage.

Flowers and Fruit

Spring & Summer with small yellowish tassel flower heads near the top of the stems.

Aspect

Full sun to 50% shade. Protected coastal aspects are best. Inland it can handle cold & frost to -10°C .

Soil Type

Wide range: wet sandy loam to wet/dry clay loam.

Maintenance

Trim back to ground level very 2 to 3 years. Fertilize with slow release fertilizer after trimming.

Mulch Type

Any well composted mulch type.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes. We can grow larger sizes to contract order.

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m², Specimen planting; 3 to 5/m²

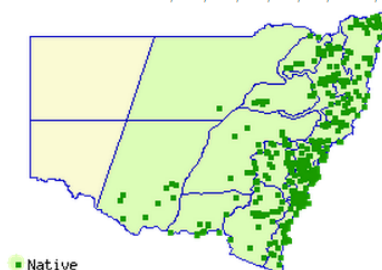
Available to Buy Online



Distribution and occurrence: Extending inland to near Dubbo and along the Murray River valley; probably introduced in irrigation areas near Warren, Griffith and Hay.

Very common on stream banks and other moist places.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP



Other Australian states: Qld Vic. *W.A. *S.A.

Hybridizes with *J. polyanthemus*.

Juncus kraussii

Landscape value

Juncus kraussii, a sedge that grows in coastal marshes, salt marshes and within the tidal zone along the shore line of coastal salt water lakes and estuaries. Often seen growing in acid sulphate soils and forming the dominant species as the understory to trees in ephemeral swamps.

Height

1 metre

Width

1 metre

Habit

Deep green, cylindrical reed like, arching foliage

Flowers and Fruit

Flowers and seed heads are born on stems rising from the base clump and form level with the top of the foliage.

Aspect

It grows in full sun to 90% shade as an understory to trees in permanently wet to dry soils, especially Casuarina and She Oaks.

Soil Type

Wet and dry sandy loam, clay loams. Often found growing on acid sulphate soils.

Maintenance

Trim back by half every 2 to 3 years, Fertilize with slow release fertilizer after trimming.

Mulch Type

Any well composted mulch type

Available Sizes

Viro-cells and Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

Viro-tubes @ 5/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows in coastal districts, often dominant in saline or brackish wetlands.
NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC
Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. N.T. SA. WA.



Gahnia clarkei

Landscape value

Gahnia clarkei, commonly known as Saw Sedge, is a large growing sedge that makes a great screen plant and can be used as a back drop for other foliage plants. It is perfect for wet & dry areas. Best kept away from pedestrian traffic as it has serrated edged leaves that may cut if handled or brushed against.

Height

1.5 metres to 2 metres

Width

1.5 metres to 2 metres

Habit

Very large clumping sedge with green serrated edged foliage

Flowers and Fruit

Late Spring & Summer with 500mm+ long large black to brownish flowers with seed heads that produce small red seeds.

Aspect

Full sun to 90% shade. Protected coastal aspects. Grows well inland and will handle cold and frost to -10°C. Gahnia are very tough, drought tolerant plants.

Soil Type

Sandy loam, clay loam, light clays.

Maintenance

Trimming is rarely needed, but if so reduce the foliage by half in spring. Fertilize with slow release fertilizer after trimming.

Mulch Type

Any well composted mulch type.

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes



Distribution and occurrence: Coastal districts, extending inland to Blue Mtns and to Braidwood area.

Grows on creek banks and near swampy areas.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT



Cyperus exaltatus

Landscape value

Cyperus exaltatus, a tussock forming perennial sedge common in shallow water along fresh water dams, rivers, creeks and lagoons. Cyperus is a quick growing colonizer ideal for constructed wetlands, as it quickly stabilizes soils and provides good animal habitat.

Height

1 metre to 1.5 metres

Width

500mm to 1 metre

Habit

Tall clumping perennial with light green stems and foliage

Aspect

Grows in full sun to 50% shade in shallow water from 0—500mm deep from the coast to inland areas.

Soil Type

moist soils through to shallow water on river and stream banks

Available Sizes

Viro-tubes

Planting Rates

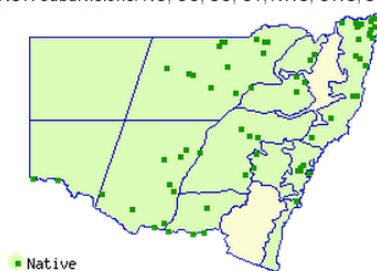
Mass planting; 5 to 7/m²



Distribution and occurrence: Grows in shallow water and on banks of streams and lagoons; widespread.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP

Other Australian states: Qld Vic. W.A. S.A. N.T.



■ Native

Restio pallens

Landscape value

Restio pallens makes an attractive feature plant for wet and dry applications, with its upright lime green and reddish brown banded reed like foliage. Restio pallens can be used as a specimen or mass planted to achieve a great foliage effect.

Height

1 metre

Width

500mm to 700mm

Habit

Upright lime green and reddish brown banded reed like foliage

Flowers and Fruit

Spring & Summer with terminal flowers.

Aspect

Full sun to 50% shade. Good for protected coastal aspects. In inland climates grow in a protected micro-climate free from frost.

Soil Type

Sandy loam, peaty loams, wet to dry soils.

Maintenance

Trimming is rarely needed, but if so, remove old foliage or cut back to 100—200mm above the ground. Fertilize with slow release fertilizer after trimming to encourage fresh re-growth.

Mulch Type

Any well composted mulch type.

Available Sizes

140mm Pots

Planting Rates

Mass planting; 5 to 7/m², Specimen planting; 1—3/m²



Distribution and occurrence: in swampy places in sandy or peaty wallum country; coastal districts north from Richmond region. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC

